

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	25X1	REPORT NO.	25X1
TOPIC	25X1 1. Infantry Battalion	In AS		
	25X1 2. Motorized Infantry Battalion	In Vysoke Myto		
EVALUATION	25X1	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1	10 12
DATE OF CONTENT	prior to 11 October 1950			
DATE OBTAINED	25X1	DATE PREPARED	5 December 1950	
REFERENCES	25X1	25X1		
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)		
REMARKS	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY</b></p>			

25X1 Infantry Battalion

25X1 1. Prior to 10 October 1950, Indep Inf Bn [REDACTED] As (M 51/P 18), was subordinate to a division headquarters in Karlovy Vary (N 51/P 69). (1)

2. On 1 October 1950 the order was issued that all members of the battalion wear an identification tag around their necks when leaving the quarters. For some time, the enlisted personnel have been forced to keep their hair closely cropped. About 7 October 1950 the trained soldiers of the unit received orders to prepare for a transfer. It was said that the battalion would be transferred to the area of Cheb (N 51/P 37). This order created a great deal of activity among the troops. On 9 October 1950 officers were seen burning files in the office rooms of the battalion. (3)

25X1 Motorized Infantry Battalion

25X1 3. In April 1950 Mtz Inf Bn [REDACTED] surnamed Alois Jirasek, was located in a barracks installation near the Vysoke Myto (N 50/N 08) railroad station. Lieutenant Colonel Bedrich Valenta was battalion commander. Commanding officer of A Company was Staff Captain Smutny, (fmu). The unit was composed almost exclusively of Czechs. (4)

4. The battalion was organized into the headquarters company; A, C, and S Inf Companies; a heavy machine gun company; a submachine gun company; a technical company; a heavy weapons company; M and K Companies; a reconnaissance company; and an NCO school. Only drivers were in K Company. Company E, Inf, was deactivated on 31 December 1949. The total strength of the entire battalion was about 1,500 men.

5. The battalion's infantry companies were equipped with German model 98-K rifles, German submachine guns, Czech model 26 light machine guns, and flame throwers. The heavy weapons company had eight light Soviet guns and mortars. Company A was equipped with about 20 German trucks, about 30 Soviet trucks, about 110 Praga-RN Czech trucks, about 30 jeeps and passenger cars and about 110 motorcycles. Five trucks mounted German four-barreled AA machine guns. Another 20 four-barreled AA machine guns were in the arms room. About 200 German rifles with telescopic sights were seen in the battalion arms room. (5).

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6. In January 1950 the battalion, together with infantry units from Caslav (O 51/K 47) and Rychnov nad Kneznou (O 51/H 00), and artillery units from Kolin (O 51/K 38), participated in field exercises at the Kaiserwald troop training grounds. (6) A Czech model 26 belt-fed light machine gun was observed with a unit at the troop training grounds.

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Comments

25X1 (1) [redacted] the 46th Inf Bn in 's, which is subordinate to the 13th Inf Brig in Karlovy Vary.

(2) This is the first information on a transfer of the 46th Inf Bn. The close-cropped hair of the recruits conforms with Soviet Army style.

(3) The burning of files indicates that the unit was transferred to a new permanent post.

(4) By its surname Alois Jirascek the battalion is identified as the 30th Mtz Inf Bn of the 8th Mtz Inf Div. The battalion has been known to be located in Vysoke Myto since 1948.

(5) Although it seems that all motor vehicles of the battalion have been pooled in N Company, the number of 160 trucks, 30 passenger cars and jeeps and 110 motorcycles seems exaggerated. In April 1949 the battalion had only 10 trucks, 5 passenger cars and 5 motorcycles.

(6) The infantry unit from Caslav was the 21st Mtz Inf Bn and that from Rychnov was the 69th Mtz Inf Bn. The artillery unit from Kolin was the 51st Mtz Arty Regt. All units are components of the 8th Mtz Inf Div in Kolin, which probably held winter exercises at the Kaiserwald troop training grounds in January 1950. The fact that the information on the field exercises did not mention any tanks strengthens the previous belief that a motorized infantry division has no tank components.

(7) [redacted] the discharge of the 1926 class and the induction of the 1928 class in October 1950. The 1928 class had not yet been in active service. Volunteers of the 1929 class were probably inducted at a ratio corresponding to that of the previous years.

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